

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A communications network having multiple users using an instant messaging (IM) application, wherein the users are viewing multiple television programs, the network comprising:
 - a display device for each of the users;
 - plural display windows at the display device, the plural windows for simultaneously displaying multiple content, wherein a first display window displays a broadcast television program and wherein a second display window displays content from the instant messaging (IM) application; and
 - a server storing instant messaging content from each of the users, the instant messaging content including instant messages sent from the users and a program ID associated with each of the sent instant messages, the program ID identifying the broadcast television program being viewed by each user, and for aggregating instant messaging content including program IDs from the users corresponding to the multiple television programs being viewed by the users, so that video programming activity by multiple users viewing television programs can be tracked on a real time basis at the server in order to reflect moment-by-moment the level of instant messaging activity corresponding to multiple television programs being viewed by the multiple users.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein the broadcast television program is provided over one of a plurality of selectable television channels, and wherein the display device is a television screen.
4. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein the instant messaging content further comprises:

a personal ID associated with a user of the IM application.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein the instant messaging content further comprises a message sent from a remote user to a user at the display system.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein the instant messaging content further comprises a selectable telephone communications display element, and wherein a telephone communications line is established over the communications network between the user at the display system and the remote user, when the telephone communications display element is selected.

10. (Original) The display system of claim 9, wherein the telephone communications line is connected at a telephone device separate from the display system, and such telephone communications line uses the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein a user at the display system is a subscriber to a VDSL service, and wherein the VDSL service provides telephone, television programming and internet access service to the subscriber over the communications network.

13. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein television programming is provided to the display system by a satellite television service.

14. (Previously presented) The display system of claim 1, wherein television programming is provided to the display system by a cable television service.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The network of claim 1, further comprising:
a set top box for each of the users for receiving the broadcast television program and the program ID identifying the television program, wherein the IM application captures the program ID at the set top box so that the program ID identifying the broadcast television program being viewed by each user changes when the television program being viewed by that user changes.

18. (Previously presented) The network of claim 1, wherein the display device further includes a set up screen used by each of the users to set up an instant messaging session, and wherein the program ID is entered by the user at the set up screen.

19. (Previously presented) The network of claim 18, wherein personal profile information of the user is entered at a profile screen, so that the programming activity being tracked can be associated with demographic information of users collected from the personal profile data.

20. (Canceled)